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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/629,631

07/30/2003

Kouichi Anno

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06/27/2005

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EXAMINER

TON, MINH TOAN T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/629,631	Applicant(s) ANNO ET AL.	
	Examiner Toan Ton	Art Unit 2871	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-7 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 8-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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Election/Restrictions

1. An election of an embodiment directing to claims 1-3 and 8-14 is acknowledged. Thus, claims 4-7 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (APA hereinafter) in view of Murai et al (US 6862059).

APA discloses a common transfective LCD device comprising (see at least the description of the related art, e.g., col. 1, [0009]): a substrate, a first pixel electrode formed of a light transmissive conductive layer formed in one optical transmissive region which is formed by partitioning the pixel region; a second pixel electrode formed of a non-light transmissive conductive film is formed on the other light reflective region; the first pixel electrode positioned as a lower layer with respect to an insulation film and a hole is formed in the insulation film in a region corresponding to the light transmissive region so as to expose the first pixel electrode, and the second pixel electrode is formed on a light reflective region of the insulation film.

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APA fails to disclose 'at least a portion corresponding to a side wall surface of the hole formed in the insulation film is arranged in relation to a light shielding film'.

Murai discloses a transflective LCD device comprising a light shielding means disposed on one of a pair of substrates and at least arranged in relation/at least overlapping with at least a portion corresponding to a side wall surface of the hole formed in the insulation film (see at least Figures 4-5). The use of a light shielding means is common and known in the art for yielding advantages such as minimizing light leakage → good contrast. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ a light shielding means arranged at least in relation with at least a portion corresponding to a side wall surface of the hole formed in the insulation film for advantages such as minimizing light leakage → good contrast.

Materials such as metal are common and known in the art for bus lines, light shielding means. Forming the shielding means and the bus (gate/data) lines of the same material is also common and known in the art for advantages such as cost-reduction. Therefore, it would have been at least obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ the light shielding means and the gate lines made of the same material, as common and known in the art, for advantages such as cost-reduction.

Murai also discloses the contact hole formed close to the switching element (TFT).

The light shielding means disposed on one of the pair of substrates is common and known as at least art-recognized functionally equivalent to the light shielding means disposed on another of the pair of substrates. Further, disposing between below the second pixel electrode would further achieve advantages such as protecting the TFT from damaging. Therefore, it would have been at least obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to form the light shielding means adjacent to

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the switching element (TFT) (i.e., below the second pixel electrode) for achieving further advantages such as protecting the TFT from damaging.

Conclusion


4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan Ton whose telephone number is (571) 272-2303

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

June 23, 2005


**TOANTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER**